

IPCC

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Member Denomination of
National Association of Evangelicals
Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of
North America
World Evangelical Fellowship
Pentecostal World Conference

April 30, 1997

The Honorable Ernest Istook
U. S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Istook:

Concerned that a nation founded on the principles of religious freedom is increasingly becoming anti-Christian, the International Pentecostal Church of Christ is pleased to lend its support to your noble efforts with the *Religious Freedom Amendment*.

While we strongly affirm the right of all Americans to worship or not to worship as he or she desires, the United States appears to have selectively focused on Christian activities to exclude from the public realm.

Efforts at creating a religious-neutral society have degenerated into leaving a society that is decidedly anti-religious. Schools tracing their heritage back to religious origins are required to exclude any reference to religion. In a time when crime and social decline are running rampant partly due to the lack of a moral compass, our government agencies seemingly spend more of their resources fighting religion than it does moral decay. When public dollars can fund a display of desecrated religious symbols, yet a student is prohibited from saying a heartfelt prayer, your amendment is needed. When the anti-censorship movement feels no compunction in censoring religious thought and religious speech, America needs a simply worded amendment assuring the original intent of freedom of religion—anytime, anyplace, by anybody.

Because of our concern for the future of our children and grandchildren, we are appreciative of your exhausting efforts on behalf of the *Religious Freedom Amendment*.

Sincerely,

Clyde M. Hughes, D.D.
General Overseer